

# The Rise of Ancient Rome

## Chapter Preview

This chapter will examine the rise of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire.

### Section 1

#### The Roman Republic

### Section 2

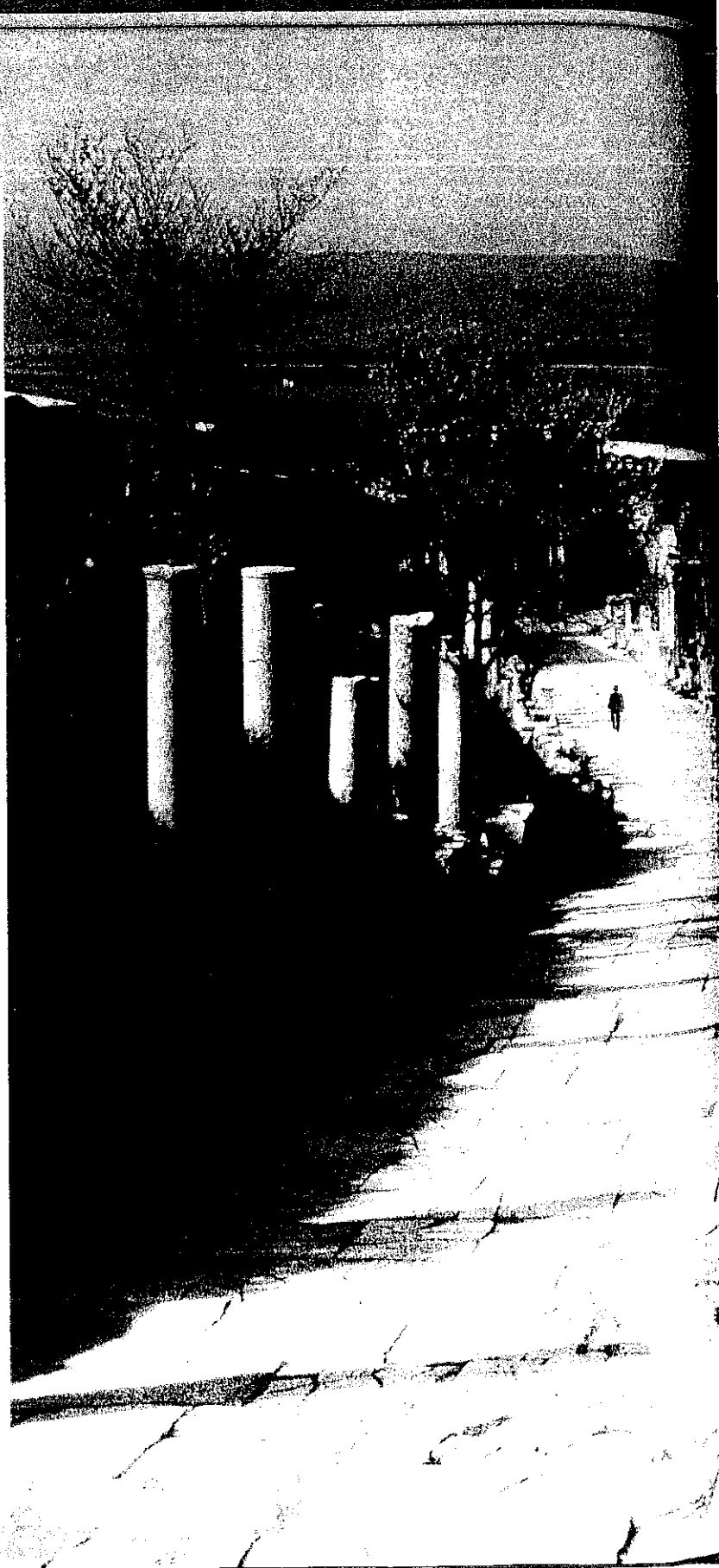
#### The Roman Empire



### Target Reading Skill

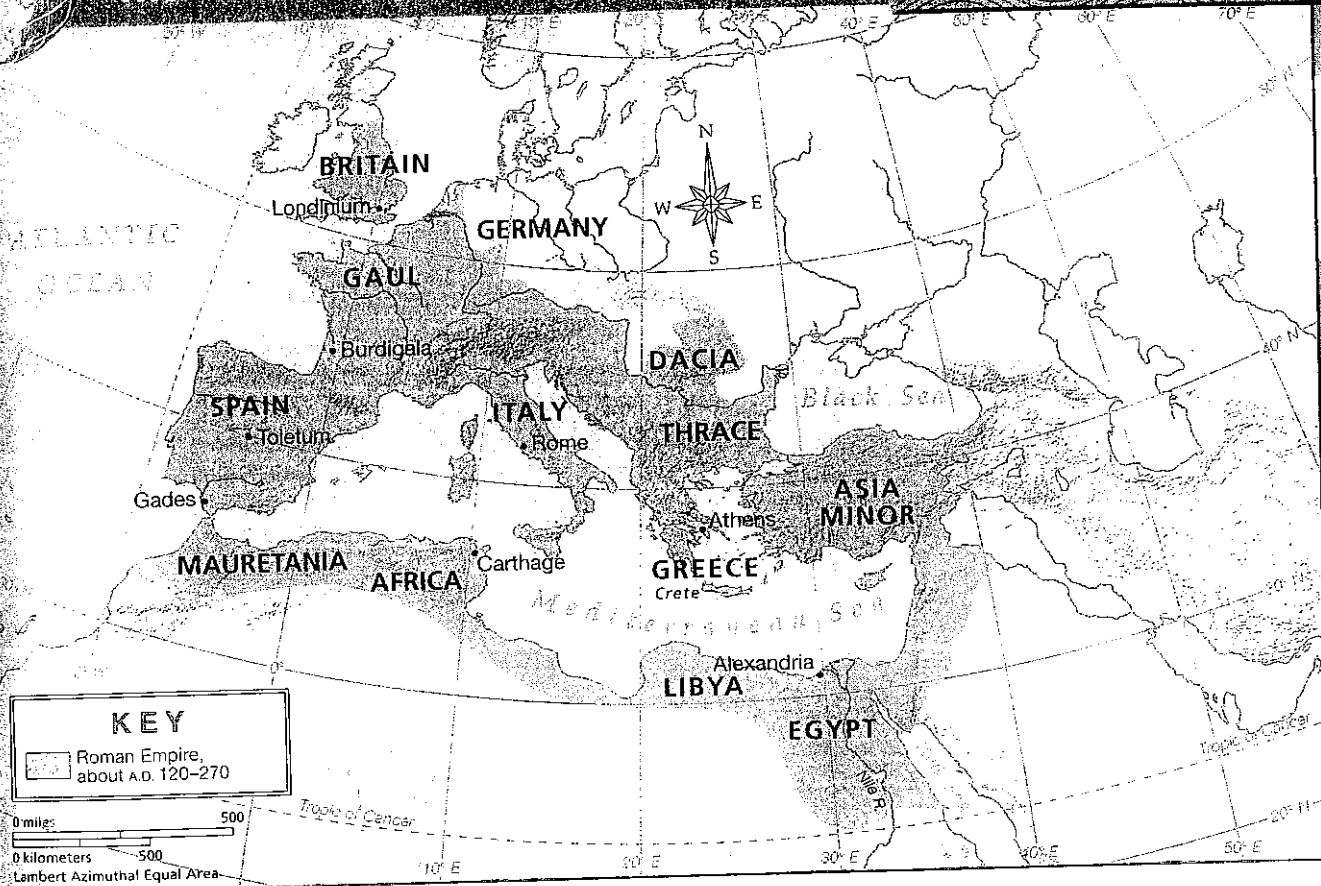
**Word Analysis** In this section you will learn how to recognize and pronounce unfamiliar words by recognizing word origins and by breaking down words into prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

➤ The ruins of Ephesus (EF ih sus), a Roman city in Asia Minor



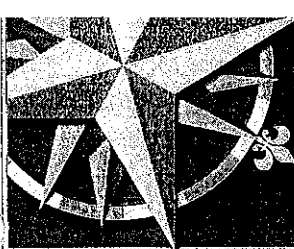
# The Roman Empire

## MAP MASTER Skills Activity



**Location** Over a period of about 500 years Rome grew from a village fighting to protect its borders to a great city in control of the world around it. **Identify** How are the positions of Rome and Athens similar? How does the size of Italy compare to the other areas identified on the map? **Draw Conclusions** Athens dominated the world for a short time, but Roman rule lasted for centuries. What means of travel and transport did the Romans need in order to keep control of their empire?

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## Section

# I

# The Roman Republic

## Prepare to Read

### Objectives

In this section you will

1. Learn about the geography and early settlement of ancient Rome.
2. Understand how Romans formed a republic.
3. Identify the reasons that the Roman Republic went into decline.

### Taking Notes

As you read the section, look for details about the rise and collapse of the Roman Republic. Copy the chart below, and use it to record your findings.

The Etruscans take power in Rome.
↓ ↓ ↓



### Target Reading Skill

**Use Word Parts** In this section you will read the word *reorganized*. Break it into a prefix and root to try to learn its meaning. The prefix *re-* means "again." The root "organized" means "to put in order."

### Key Terms

- **republic** (rih PUB lik) *n.* a type of government in which citizens select their leaders
- **patrician** (puh TRISH un) *n.* a member of a wealthy family in the ancient Roman Republic

- **plebeian** (plih BEE un) *n.* an ordinary citizen in the ancient Roman Republic
- **consul** (KAHN sul) *n.* an elected official who led the Roman Republic
- **veto** (VEE toh) *n.* the power of one branch of government to reject bills or proposals passed by another branch of government
- **dictator** (DIK tay tur) *n.* a person in the ancient Roman Republic appointed to rule for six months in times of emergency, with all the powers of a king

The Tiber River in Rome

In ancient times, young Romans learned about the founding of their state. But it was a story that mixed a little fact with a great deal of legend. The main characters in the story were twin brothers, Romulus (RAHM yuh lus) and Remus (REE mus). They were the children of a princess and Mars, the Roman god of war. A jealous king feared that the twins would someday seize power from him. He ordered them to be drowned. But the gods protected the infants. A female wolf rescued them. Then a shepherd found the twins and raised them as his own. The twins grew up, killed the unjust king, and went off to build their own city. At a place where seven hills rise above the Tiber River, the twins founded the city of Rome.

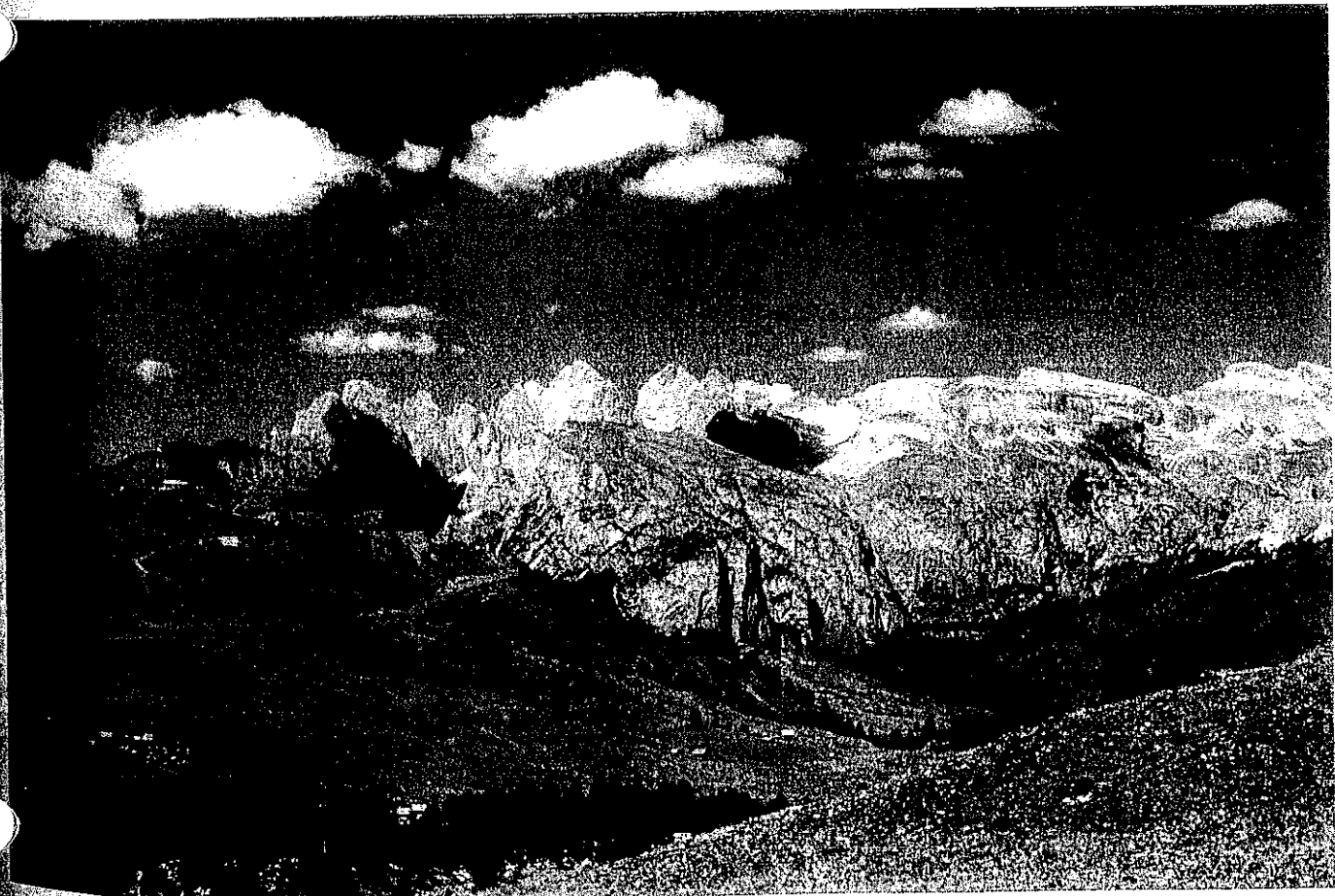


## Rome's Geography and Early Settlement

We can learn much from the story of Rome's founding—even if the tale is mostly legend. We learn that the Romans valued loyalty and justice. People who broke the law were severely punished, just as Romulus and Remus punished the king. We also learn that the Romans highly valued the favor of the gods.

**Geographical Advantages** The first settlers on Rome's seven hills were not thinking about building a great empire. They chose that site because it seemed to be a good place to live. The hills made the area easy to defend. The soil was fertile, and the site had a river. From the mountains of central Italy, the Tiber River flowed through Rome before emptying into the Tyrrhenian (tih REE nee un) Sea. As centuries passed, Romans discovered that the location of their city gave them other advantages. Rome was at the center of a long, narrow peninsula we now call Italy. Italy juts out into the Mediterranean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea was at the center of the known Western world.

The Dolomite Mountains are part of the Italian Alps. This mountain range stood as a great divide between Italy and the rest of Europe.



## Links to Science

**Etruscan Dentistry** The Etruscans were among the first people to use human-made substitutes for lost teeth. Evidence of ancient Etruscan dentistry has been found by archaeologists and can be seen today in museums. One notable example comes from the 600s B.C.: The Etruscan dentist placed soldered gold bands over the patient's remaining teeth, and in the empty bands the lost teeth were replaced by human teeth and, in one spot, the tooth of an ox!

**The Etruscans** We know very little about the people who actually founded Rome. We do know, however, that their first settlements date from about 900 B.C. Rome grew slowly as the Romans fought their neighbors for land.

About 600 B.C., a people called the Etruscans (ih TRUS kunz) held power in Rome. They spoke a language unlike most others in Italy. Although we have many examples of their writing, we can read very little of it.

Where did the Etruscans come from? Even today, no one is sure. For a time, Etruscans ruled as kings of Rome, but many Romans did not like being ruled by an all-powerful king and having no say in how they were governed. Some ancient Roman historians claimed that in 509 B.C. the Romans revolted against the harsh reign of Tarquinius Superbus (tahr KWIN ee us soo PUR bus) and drove the Etruscans from power. Many modern historians doubt the truth of this story and are not sure exactly how and when the rule of the Etruscan kings ended and the Roman Republic began.

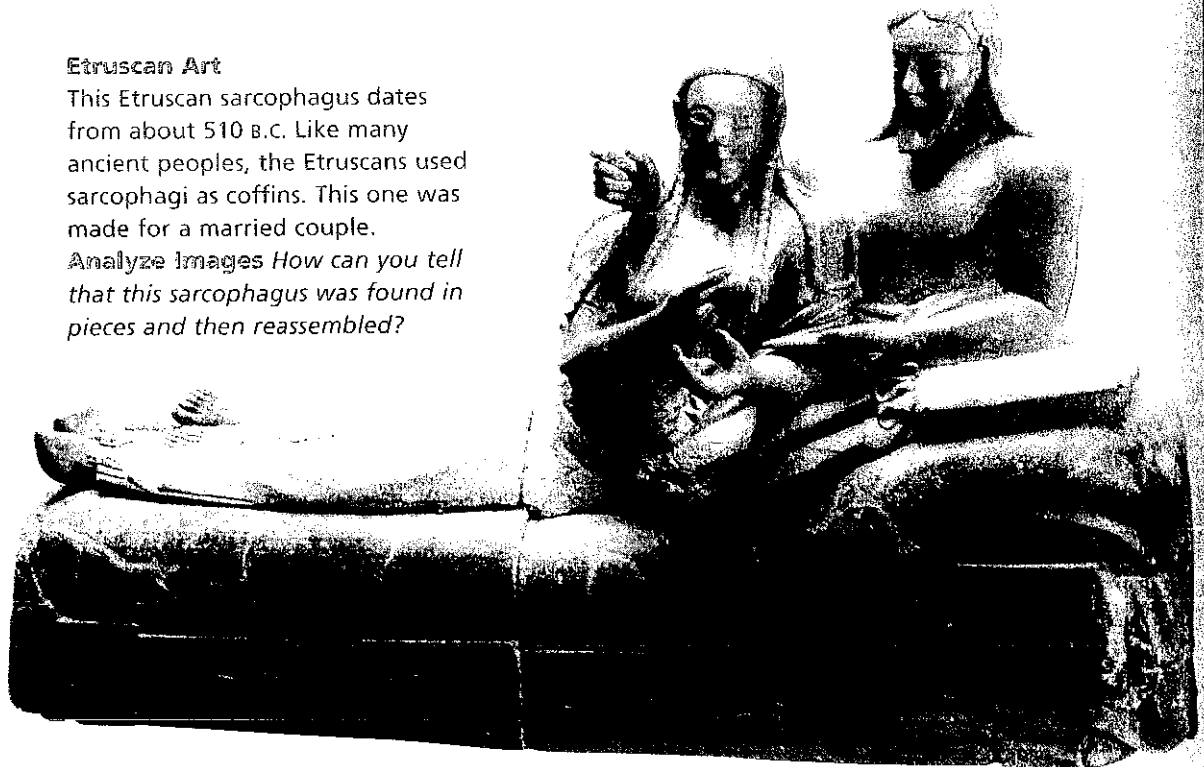
Although the Romans defeated the Etruscans, the victors adopted Etruscan ideas. For example, many of the Roman gods were originally Etruscan gods. The Romans also borrowed the Greek alphabet that the Etruscans used. The Roman garment called the toga came from the Etruscans as well.

✓ **Reading Check** What is known about the Etruscans?

### Etruscan Art

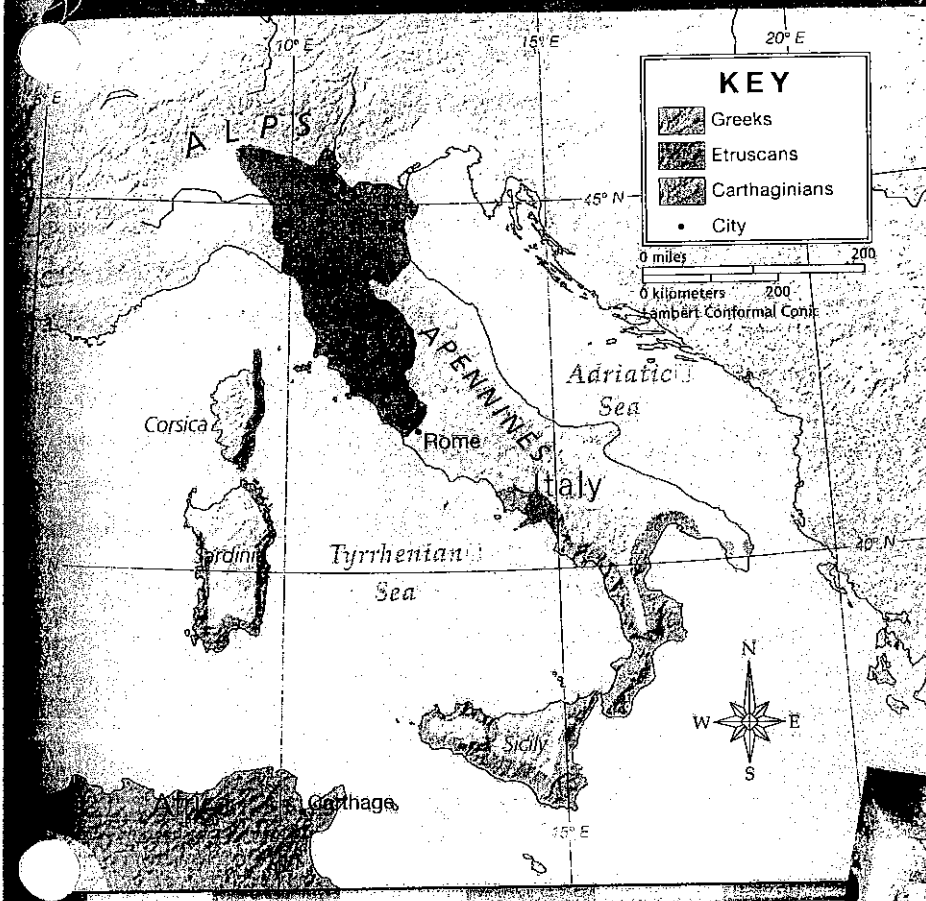
This Etruscan sarcophagus dates from about 510 B.C. Like many ancient peoples, the Etruscans used sarcophagi as coffins. This one was made for a married couple.

*Analyze Images* How can you tell that this sarcophagus was found in pieces and then reassembled?



## Peoples of Ancient Italy

## MAP MASTER™ Skills Activity



**Movement** In its origins Rome was only one of many cities and villages inhabited by a tribe called the Latins. Older and better established cultures had a foothold on the Italian peninsula.

**Identify** Use the key to locate the three civilizations that were established nearby as Rome began to expand.

**Infer** Which of the three does it seem Rome would have had to overcome first? Why? What does the location of Greek and Carthaginian possessions suggest about their value to Greece and Carthage proper?

### Go Online

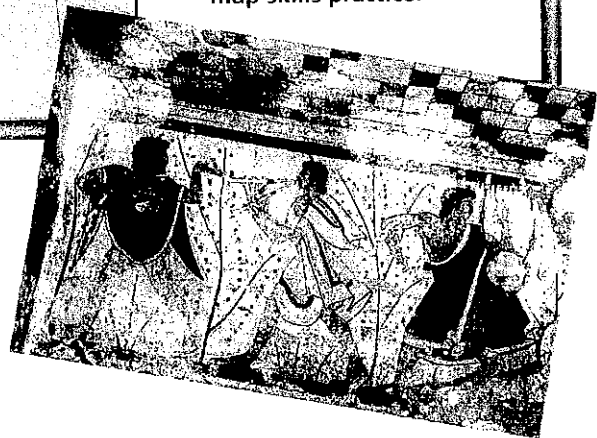
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## Romans Form a Republic

After removing the last Etruscan king, the Romans vowed never again to put so much trust in kings. They wanted a government that did not rely on one ruler. Over the next several centuries, Rome expanded its territory and found ways to govern that better represented the will of its citizens.

By 264 B.C., the Romans had gained control of the entire Italian peninsula (the area that makes up present-day Italy) and had firmly established a new form of government—a republic. In a republic, citizens who have the right to vote select their leaders. The leaders rule in the name of the people.

**The Roman Senate** In the Roman Republic, the most powerful part of the government was the senate. The senate mirrors its own legislative branch of government—the branch that proposes and votes on new laws. At first, the senate was made up of 300 upper-class men called patricians. A patrician was a member of a wealthy family in the ancient Roman Republic. Ordinary citizens were known as plebeians. In the early republic, plebeians could not hold office or be senators.



Daily life activities were often the subjects of Roman art.



**The Roman Consuls** Two chief officials called **consuls** led the government. The consuls, like our U.S. President, were the chief executives of the government. They were responsible for enforcing the Republic's laws and policies. The consuls were elected by the assembly of citizens. Before 367 B.C., plebeians could not be consuls. The senate advised the consuls on foreign affairs, laws, and finances, among other things.

Consuls ruled for one year only. They almost always did what the senate wanted them to do. Power was divided equally between the consuls. Both had to agree before the government could take any action. If only one consul said, "Veto" ("I forbid"), the matter was dropped. A **veto** is the rejection of any planned action by a person in power. Today, we use "veto" to mean the rejection of a proposed law by the President of the United States.

### Timeline Skills

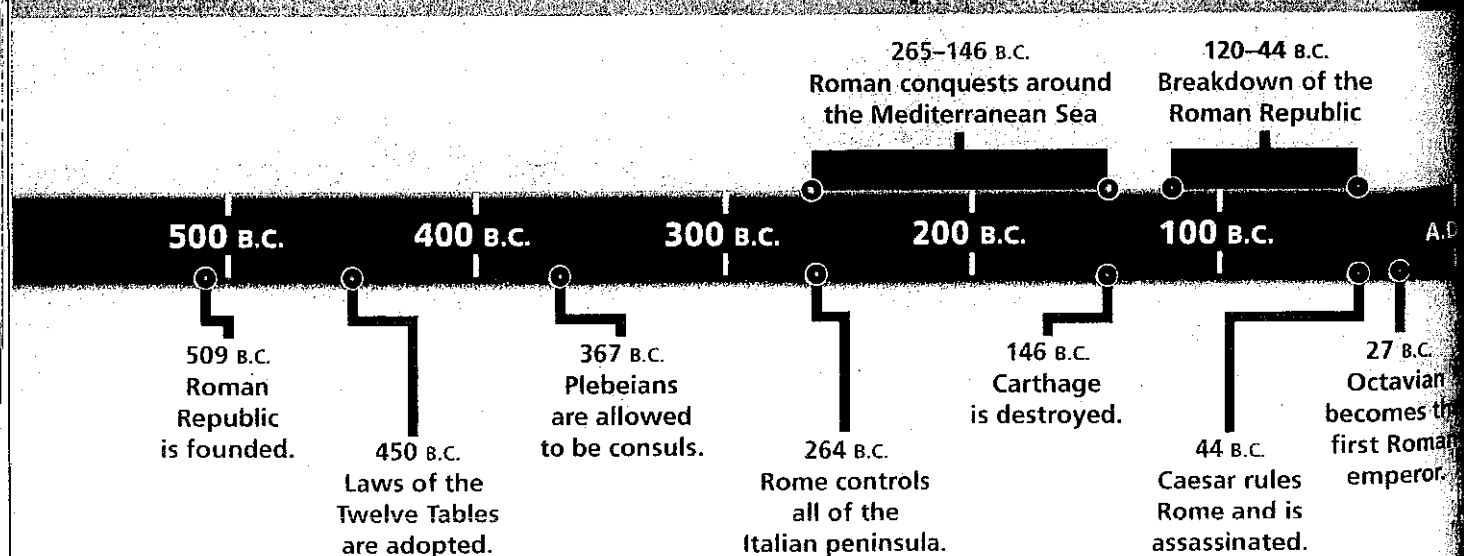
The Roman Republic lasted for almost 500 years.

**Identify** By what year did Rome control the Italian peninsula? **Analyze** About how long did the republic's main period of conquests around the Mediterranean Sea last? What event occurred near the end of that period?

**Other Important Officials** The Romans knew that their government might not work if the two consuls disagreed. For this reason, Roman law held that a dictator could be appointed to handle an emergency. In the Roman Republic, a **dictator** was a Roman official who had all the powers of a king but could hold office for only six months.

**Praetors** (PREE turz) were other important officials. At first they functioned as junior consuls, but later, they served as judges in civil-law trials—trials that settled disputes about money, business matters, contracts, and so on. Thus, the **praetors** helped to develop some of the first rules for Roman courts of law.

## The Roman Republic

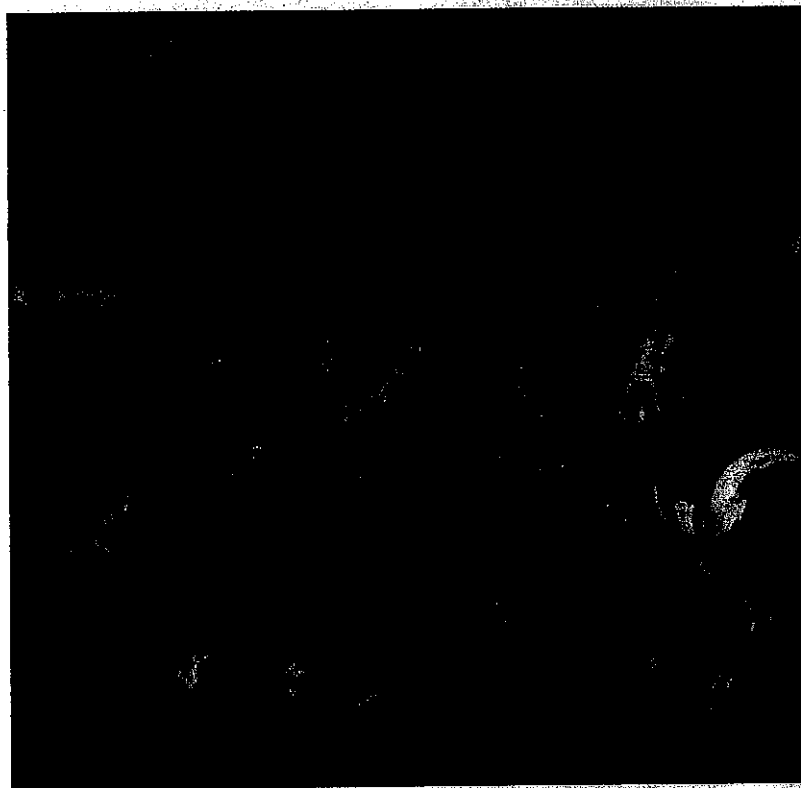


**Patricians Versus Plebeians** The expansion of Rome's influence throughout Italy caused growing troubles between patricians and plebeians. Patricians and plebeians had different attitudes and interests. Patricians thought of themselves as leaders. They fought hard to keep control of the government. Plebeians believed that they had a right to be respected and treated fairly. Plebeians did not trust the actions of the patrician senate. They believed that the senate was often unfair to the plebeians. Therefore, plebeians formed their own groups to protect their interests.

Many patricians grew wealthy because of Rome's conquests. They took riches from those they had defeated in war. Then they bought land from small farmers and created huge farms for themselves. Plebeians did not work on these farms. Rather, the work was done by slaves brought back from conquests. Many plebeian farmers found themselves without work. The cities, especially Rome, were filled with jobless plebeians.

Eventually, angry plebeians refused to fight in the Roman army. It was then that patricians gave in to one of the main demands of the plebeians. This demand was for a written code of laws which was called the Laws of the Twelve Tables. The Twelve Tables applied equally to all citizens. They were hung in marketplaces so that everyone could know what the laws were. Despite this victory, the plebeians never managed to gain power equal to that of the patricians.

**Master of the Mediterranean** While patricians and plebeians fought for power in Rome, Roman armies were conquering new territories. Roman armies invaded territories controlled by Carthage, a North African city in what is now the country of Tunisia. The Romans drove the Carthaginians from the coast of Spain. By 146 B.C., after a series of bloody wars, the Romans had completely destroyed Carthage. Other Roman armies conquered Greece in the same year. Then the Romans gradually took control of the rest of Spain and the land of Gaul, most of which is present-day France.



#### **The Sack of Carthage**

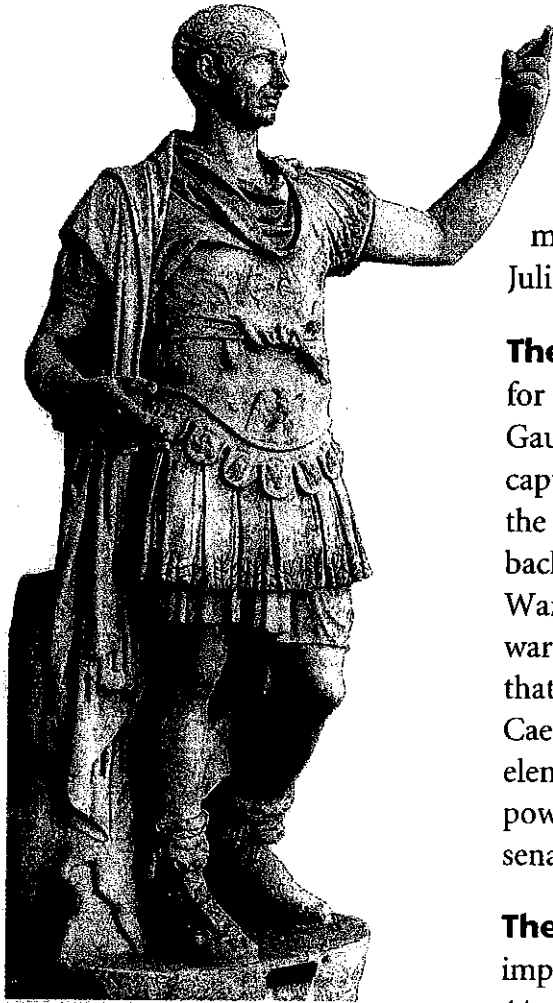
The artist Tiepolo portrays the final destruction of Carthage by the Roman Empire in his painting. At the final surrender, the city that once had a population of more than a quarter million people was left with only 50,000 survivors.

**Analyze Images** What other titles might be appropriate for Tiepolo's depiction of the war with Carthage?

**Reading Check** What complaints did the plebeians have against the patricians?



Julius Caesar was a powerful dictator of the Roman Republic. Later Roman leaders adopted his name as a title. In time, Caesar came to mean "emperor."



#### Prefixes and Roots

What is the meaning of reorganize?

## The Decline of the Republic

Even though it ruled a large area, Rome was in trouble by 120 B.C. Some leaders tried to break up estates and give land to the plebeians. The patricians fought back, and plebeian leaders were murdered.

Over the next seventy-five years, a number of the most successful Roman generals gathered private armies around them and fought for power. Consuls no longer respected each other's veto power. Rome dissolved into civil war, with private armies roaming the streets and murdering enemies. As Rome seemed about to break apart, Julius Caesar (JOOL yus SEE zur) arose as a strong leader.

**The Rise of Julius Caesar** Caesar was a smart leader, eager for power. From 58 to 51 B.C., he led the army that conquered Gaul. He killed, enslaved, and uprooted millions of Gauls. He captured huge amounts of gold. His strong leadership won him the loyalty of his troops. They would follow him anywhere—even back to Rome to seize power. In 49 B.C., Caesar returned to Italy. War broke out between Caesar and the senate. Caesar won the war and became dictator of the Roman world in 48 B.C. Recall that under Roman law, a dictator could rule for only six months. Caesar's rule, however, lasted far longer than that. Although some elements of the republic remained, Caesar ruled with great power, taking much of the power that had once belonged to the senate.

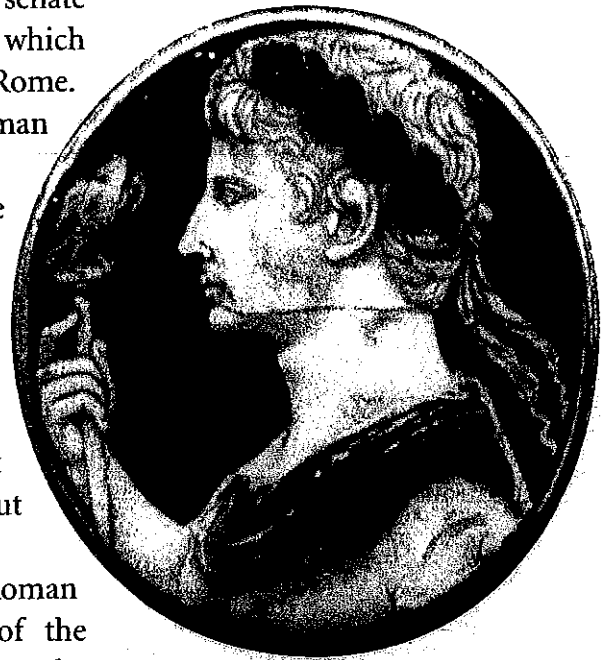
**The Death of a Dictator** For four years, Caesar took over important public offices. In 45 B.C., he became the only consul. In 44 B.C., he became dictator for life. Caesar took many useful steps to reorganize the government. But it seemed to many senators that Rome once again had a king. They hated this idea.

On March 15, 44 B.C., Caesar had plans to attend a meeting of the senate. His wife sensed danger and urged him not to go, but Caesar insisted. At the meeting, a group of senators gathered around Caesar. Suddenly, they pulled out knives and stabbed him. He fell to the ground, dead. Caesar had been a strong leader. However, many Romans felt that he had gone too far and too fast in gathering power.

**From Republic to Empire** Civil war followed Caesar's death. When the war ended after thirteen years, Caesar's adopted son, Octavian (ahk TAY vee un), held power. In 27 B.C., the senate awarded Octavian the title of Augustus (aw GUS tus), which means "highly respected." He was the first emperor of Rome. The rule of Augustus marked the beginning of the Roman Empire and the end of the Roman Republic.

The Roman Republic had lasted nearly 500 years. The government worked well for much of that time. As a republic, Rome grew from a city-state to a holder of vast territories. It developed the largest elected government the world had seen up to that time. But civil war and the ambition of powerful political figures ate away at Rome's republican forms of rule. For the next 500 years, the great Roman civilization would be ruled, not by the people, but by an all-powerful emperor.

In the next section, you will read about how the Roman emperors ruled their vast empires and about some of the innovations in technology and law that developed during the Roman Empire.



In addition to receiving the title Augustus, Octavian was later honored as *Pater Patriae*, or father of his country.

**Reading Check** What did Julius Caesar do to become dictator of Rome?

## Section 1 Assessment

### Key Terms

Review the key terms listed at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that shows the term's meaning.

### Get Reading Skill

Use your knowledge of the prefix *re-*. What does *re-create* mean?

### Comprehension and Critical Thinking

**Recall** Describe the geography and early settlement of Rome.

**(b) Explain** Why did the Romans overthrow the Etruscans?

**2. (a) List** What were the important features of the Roman Republic?

**(b) Analyze** Why did the Romans want the republic to have two consuls rather than one?

**3. (a) Identify** Describe the features of the rule of Julius Caesar.

**(b) Draw Conclusions** Why would the Roman senate be likely to lead the opposition to Caesar's growing power?

### Writing Activity

Julius Caesar was a strong leader, but his leadership angered the Roman senate. Write a list of pros and cons about Julius Caesar's leadership.

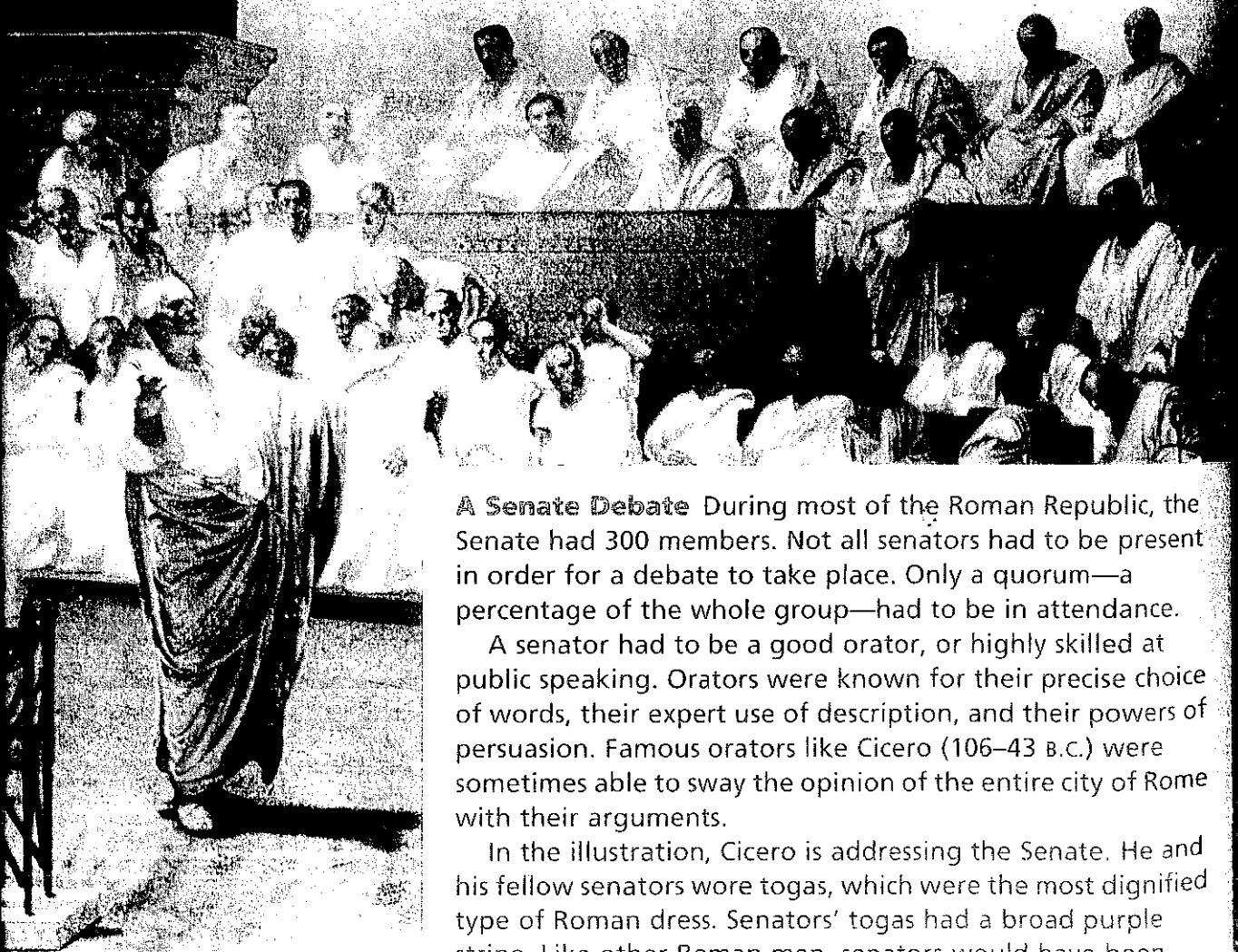
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## Focus On The Roman Senate

The Roman Senate was the most powerful governing body in the Roman Republic. It began as a group of advisors to the king. When the king was exiled in 510 B.C., the Senate took control of the government. At that time, it was decided that there would be two consuls who would rule with advice from the Senate. Consuls had power for one year and then became senators. Senators usually served for life. The Senate advised on home and foreign policy, laws, and questions of money and religion. It dealt with foreign powers and settled disputes among the Roman provinces.



**A Senate Debate** During most of the Roman Republic, the Senate had 300 members. Not all senators had to be present in order for a debate to take place. Only a quorum—a percentage of the whole group—had to be in attendance.

A senator had to be a good orator, or highly skilled at public speaking. Orators were known for their precise choice of words, their expert use of description, and their powers of persuasion. Famous orators like Cicero (106–43 B.C.) were sometimes able to sway the opinion of the entire city of Rome with their arguments.

In the illustration, Cicero is addressing the Senate. He and his fellow senators wore togas, which were the most dignified type of Roman dress. Senators' togas had a broad purple stripe. Like other Roman men, senators would have been cleanshaven and would have worn their hair short.



### **Cicero**

In the scene below, Cicero is shown making a speech shortly after becoming consul. His forceful speaking skills helped him win office.

### **A Senator's Toga**

Roman senators wore togas edged with a broad purple stripe, as shown in the present-day photo.



### **Assessment**

**Explain** What was the role of the Roman Senate?

**Infer** The United States also has a Senate. Why might the Founding Fathers have chosen this name for the American governing body?